

STATOTHR

13 April 1959

DOD Referral Not Required

Dear Mr. McManus:

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Reference is made to a discussion which you held recently with Mr. Kelleher of this office regarding a news item in the "National Review" of 14 March 1959, which item alleged that a "list of 300 Americans held prisoners by the Chinese Communists" had been furnished to American officials by a Japanese repatriate.

This office queried Mr. William F. Buckley, Jr. publisher of the "National Review". Mr. Buckley informed us by letter of 26 March 1959 that he could not reveal his source of information but stated that it had come to him from an "agent of the CIA".

CIA, in response to a query from this office, informed us on 10 April 1959 that an exhaustive check of CIA files failed to disclose any reports in support of the allegation. CIA also informed us that they had no information to support the allegation that CIA, specific source unidentified, provided the basis for the story in the "National Review".

As you know there is a list of 452 unaccounted-for POW's from the Korean War which is already public knowledge, having been printed in the report of the Subcommittee on the Far East and Pacific of the House Foreign Affairs Committee under date of 27 May 1957. As stated in the Department of Defense testimony

in that report, however, this list of 452 unaccounted-for are not felt to be alive and held prisoners of the Communists.

Sincerely yours,

G. B. ERSKINE

Mr. Robert C. McManus
Investigation Analyst
Subcommittee to Investigate the
Administration of the Internal Security
Act and Other Internal Security Laws
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate

Info copies to:
Office of the Secretary of the Army (LL)
ASD (Public Affairs)
Asst to Sec Def (Legislative Affairs)
Asst Sec of State, Far Eastern Affairs
Attn: Mr. Ayleward, Chinese Affairs

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP

TO	DATE
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Remarks: copy of Gen. Ederman's
letter to the manus re
National Review article.

(4/17/59 - cc: Col. Edwards)